

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating a degree of ~~at least one of a damage of a hair~~hair damage caused by a permanent treatment and/or ~~a damage of the hair caused by an~~ oxidation treatment, based on a near infrared absorption spectrum of the hair, comprising the steps of:

1) ~~obtaining a correlation between~~correlating the degree of ~~at least one of the damage of a hair~~hair damage caused by the permanent treatment and/or ~~the damage of the hair caused by the~~ oxidation treatment, ~~and with~~ a result of multivariate analysis of near infrared absorption spectrum (wavenumber region: 8,000 to 4,500 cm^{-1}) of the hair, ~~based on results of the multivariate analysis of the near infrared absorption spectra of~~ for two or more kinds of hairs, for which a degree of ~~at least one of damages~~hair damage caused by a permanent treatment and/or by an oxidation treatment is known;

2) obtaining a near infrared absorption spectrum of a hair to be evaluated, and for which ~~the~~which is an evaluating object, a degree of ~~at least one of damages~~hair damage caused by the permanent treatment and/or by the oxidation treatment is unknown; and

3) evaluating the degree of ~~at least one of the damage~~ caused by the permanent treatment and/or the damage caused by the oxidation treatment of the hair ~~of the evaluating object~~to be evaluated, based on the near infrared absorption spectrum obtained in ~~the~~ step 2) and based on the obtained correlation of step 1).

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the multivariate analysis is an analysis which uses a principal component analysis (PCA), SIMCA, or KNN.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the damage caused by the oxidation treatment is a damage caused by a bleaching treatment.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method is for determining a degree of the permanent treatment and/or an oxidation treatment applied to the hair.

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5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method is for determining ~~the hair as to its degree of a~~ likelihood ~~to be easily~~that the hair will be damaged by the permanent treatment and/or the oxidation treatment.